

# Atlanta Ham

ATLANTA HAMFEST AD...PAGE 7

MARCH 2002

## W4DOC moves meeting location for March

*March meeting to be held in renovated facility at 1955 Monroe Drive*

When the Atlanta Radio Club, W4DOC, holds its March meeting in the new location it will be doing so in what is considered the most technologically advanced of the 1206 Disaster Operations Centers currently operating.

"Technology has enormous implications for how we mobilize our physical resources and better manage our human resources. Mobility is critical – we must be able to respond very, very fast," stated Don Stephens, General Manager of the facility.

Upgrades to the center include four large screen televisions. Video recall, mapping and global positioning systems, digital phones, wireless interfaces for notebook computers, and the ability to deploy a 16-call operator call center.

The funds raised for the renovation came from corporate, foundation and community gifts.



**Red Cross** landmark mid-town facility underwent a \$4.3 million dollar renovation. The Atlanta Radio Club will move its meeting from the Red Cross facility at Lindbergh.

The Atlanta Radio Club looks forward to meeting in the new facility. For directions look at the address cover of the Atlanta Ham.

## MARCH EVENTS...

### GARS TECHFEST 2002

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, W4GRS.

March 23, 2002 Gwinnett First Baptist Church – Behind Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville

### KENNEHOOCHEE HAMFEST

The Kennehoochee Radio Club

March 16&17, 2002  
Jim Miller Park, Marietta

## FCC Completes GA ARRL VEC Audit

*Source: March 1, 2002 ARRL Letter*

The FCC has wrapped up an investigation into apparent irregularities at five ARRL VEC-sponsored Amateur Radio examination sessions in Georgia during 2000 and 2001. As a result of the probe, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth said that several examinees would be called back for Element 1 (Morse code) retesting. In addition, the ARRL VEC has discontinued volunteer examiner accreditation for all but two of the VEs involved. According to standard procedure, all VEs who might have been involved were suspended after the FCC investigation began last year.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

Atlanta Radio Club  
Attn: HAM EDITOR  
PO BOX 720398  
Atlanta, Georgia 30358

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!**

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## THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment, including computers



Bank of America Tower  
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:  
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

## W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW, and should also be on the air before May 1, 2002. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

## ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



## MEETING NOTICE

**WHEN:** Thursday March 7, 2002 730pm  
**WHERE:** The Red Cross – 1955 Monroe Drive

**TALK IN:** 146.820 (-) PL 146.2

**DINNER:** The Picadilly Cafeteria located at Piedmont and Sidney Marcus – Lindbergh Plaza  
We dine around 615PM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – PENN K4PE

Thanks to Robin, N4OUT, for presenting an introduction to Linux at our February club meeting. We also passed some significant changes to the By-Laws so please read our club minutes carefully. Among the changes included an expansion of the Student membership to include college students under twenty-five years of age.

We are moving to a new meeting location for our March meeting. The Red Cross HQ for the State of Georgia has completed their renovation, and they have some of the nicest meeting facilities I've seen. We'll have cushioned chairs and full multimedia capability! I'm really looking forward to seeing the looks on your faces at the beginning of our March meeting.

Our program for March will be Matt, KD4BKU, presenting Ham Radio applications for Linux. His expertise is in Linux security so we're sure to pick up some helpful information about security as well. Matt runs his own Internet security firm and has several employees now. We should be proud to have Matt in our midst.

Thanks go to David, KG4LSK, for his willingness to serve as the ARC's liaison to the ARRL's ARES or Amateur Radio Emergency Service. David is an NCS for both the ARC's Sunday night net and the North Fulton ARES night. He monitors 146.82 during much of his day. David stays well informed about the activities of Georgia ARES, and look for announcements from David about ARES and other public service activities.

The Atlanta Radio Club has not had a field day in many years. Tim, WK4U, suggests that we resume this fun activity. In my opinion this is too much to ask of our current activities chairman, KA4VQH, because he is also responsible for the hamfest. Field day is only two weeks after our hamfest. If anyone is interested in heading up the ARC's field day for 2002, please contact me. There will be quite a bit of coordinating and work involved. If no one volunteers, the Kennebunk Club may be willing to have us back again this year because their field day is held at Jim Miller Park.

See Repeaters page 5 for updates...

73's Penn K4PE

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...**  
**Bob Whitehead N1RSG**

# Surfin': Morse Via the Net

With other MorseMail users

Source: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

MorseMail allows you to send and receive Morse-coded messages via e-mail. Harry Pyle, AB7TB, wrote this Windows application and built a Web page to support it.

The MorseMail Web site is home of software for sending and receiving Morse Code via the Internet.

To send Morse email, you can "key" mouse buttons or joystick trigger buttons. For easier Morse sending, you may connect a key or paddle through the mouse or joystick interface of your computer. The Web site describes how to make these connections. As an alternative, you can also load a text file into MorseMail and the software generates the correct code.

To receive Morse e-mail, you simply copy the encoded text from the received e-mail and load it into MorseMail for playback in audible Morse Code. During playback, you can adjust speed, tone, and background noise to as you like it.

MorseMail also has a repeater mode that allows you to conduct CW QSOs via the Internet. In the repeater mode, you connect to a specialized Internet server called Morse-Serve and chat à la Morse Code with other stations that are connected to the server.

You can download the latest version of MorseMail from its Web page and for additional support, you can also join the Morse-Mail e-mail group to exchange information

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**TM-770DG/TS-570SG DSP Enhanced**  
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**TS-505**  
HF Transceiver  
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• Optional 3rd band available • Backlit mic  
• Up to 900 memories • 101 per band  
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Call Now For Your Low Price!

## ARC OPERATES SCITREK RADIO STATION

The Atlanta Radio Club is scheduled to staff and operate the SciTrek Amateur Radio Station on March 23, 2002. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Penn, K4PE.

STARS is a cooperative venture of local radio clubs under the sponsorship of SciTrek. In addition to The Atlanta Radio Club, participating clubs include , QCWA, NOGAQRP,

MATPARC, North Fulton, and Gwinnett. STARS was born in the early 90's when Deb Soroco, coordinator for STARS, called several clubs who had approached SciTrek about establishing a station at the museum. One call led to another and a station was established.

The Atlanta Radio Clubs day to man the station is the 4th Saturday of

every month. The operating hours are from 12pm to 3pm. First timers should plan on working with someone who has been through the quick training primer.

SciTrek is located Piedmont Avenue, just north of the downtown connector and next to the Civic Center.

Admission to the station is free.

## METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC  
2:00 PM (Except July and September)  
Johnson High School  
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainesville  
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Walton EMC Building  
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second Saturday CA VEC 8:30 AM  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain  
Hal Martin, KI4RD (770)978-9160

Third Saturday CA VEC 9:00 AM  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
Room 305  
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth Friday W5YI VEC 7:00 PM  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn  
Headphones provided  
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362



Russ, AE4NY, operates radio at recent NOGAQRP FYBO event.  
That's "Freeze Your Buns Off"

## North Georgia QRP Club

This small, but growing, group of amateur radio enthusiasts, most of whom are within 90 miles of Atlanta, are interested in promoting the development of the branch of amateur radio known as QRP - building and operating low power transmitters, receivers and transceivers.

The NoGaQRP club meets monthly at 10AM on the first Saturday of the month at the Wieuca Baptist Church in Buckhead. The address is 3626 Peachtree Rd. (corner of Wieuca Rd.),

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2002

STARS – March 23, 12pm – 3pm SCITREK  
Contact Penn. K4PE

## OPERATING ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

Wasilla, AK: Matanuska Amateur Radio Assn, KL7JFU. 2100Z Mar 2 to Mar 23. Celebrating the 30th running of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Operation will continue through the day after the last sled completes the race. 28.460 21.315 14.246 7.290. QSL and certificate. Len Betts, NL7NF, 3090 Bald Eagle Dr, Wasilla, AK 99654. Will try to operate all bands. For more information, contact lelbak@yahoo.com.

Macon, GA: Macon Amateur Radio Club, W4BKM. 1500Z to 2200Z Mar 16. Celebrating the 20th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. 21.335 14.240 voice; 14.055 7.135 CW. Certificate. Macon ARC, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208.

## REPEATER NEWS & UPDATES...

Currently 145.35 is on the air from Alan, NE1H's house in Buford. No PL is currently required but that can change anytime. As of this writing we are working a bit on each day, and maybe we'll bring the saga of this repeater to a conclusion in March.

Alan's house is at 1200' in elevation and he has an 80' tower, so the repeater has surprisingly good coverage. Give it a try and report back how well you can work it. We are leaving it linked to 146.82. The audio has been admittedly low and needs adjustment.

Penn McClatchey, pmm@saf.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION [WWW.SAF.COM/ARC](http://WWW.SAF.COM/ARC)

# FCC Completes Audit

(Continued from page 1)

"We have reviewed the examination documents and all relevant information, including that provided by the volunteer examiners and applicants," Hollingsworth said in a February 12 letter to ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. Jahnke called the apparent irregularities to the FCC's attention last June. The issues involved both exam sessions and instructional classes.

Initially focusing on the May 19, 2001, examination session in Statesboro, the FCC audit was expanded to cover the activities of the same group of VECs at Georgia test sessions in Claxton on February 19 and April 15, 2000, and in Statesboro on May 27, 2000, and February 17, 2001.

In a letter last summer to ARRL VEC, Hollingsworth said test session documents and other information indicated "alarming discrepancies in testing procedures." He said information be-

fore the FCC suggested that volunteer examiners at the May 19 Statesboro session used identical exam question sets and Morse text at several recent exam sessions in apparent contradiction of Amateur Service rules that prohibit administration of a "compromised examination." Hollingsworth also said it appeared that test candidates "had been shown or had access to" the Morse code answer key and that some VEs had taught classes using the same test editions later given at actual examination sessions.

Hollingsworth said that as a result of the FCC probe, eight examinees who obtained licenses as a result of the tests would be called in for Element 1 (Morse code) re-examination, if they have not already re-tested.

The ARRL VEC has withdrawn accreditation for volunteer examiners responsible for the testing sessions at which alleged irregularities occurred

as well as those of VEs present at a February 10, 2001, instructional class. The examiners are Ellie Waters, W4CJB; Cheryl L. Waters, W4CLW; Joanne D. Sharpe, KF4WFN; John W. Sharpe, WA4BE; Joseph A. Horne, N4ZAJ; George B. Grant, KF4WPU; Robert T. Jernigan, W4RTJ; Kathy L. Lanier, KD4MVY; Charles M. Aulick, KF4MLT; and Lawrence A. Lewis, K4RRR.

The ARRL VEC reinstated two VEs suspended during the audit--Charles F. Roberts, AI4A, and Marshall R. Thigpen Jr, W4IS.

Meanwhile, the FCC has yet to complete an audit of an ARRL VEC-sponsored examination session in Trumbull, Connecticut, last May. Eleven VEs remain suspended in that probe. The FCC is looking into whether one applicant had access to a Morse code answer key or submitted an answer sheet completed prior to the examination.

## 2002 ARDF Championship Coming to GA

The US ARDF Championships are coming to GA April 19,20,21. See the article in the latest QST magazine for more info. We are looking for competitors, spectators and volunteers.

Sat Feb 23 - VHF (2 meter) practice at Joe Kurz WMA near Gay, GA  
Sat Mar 9 - VHF (2 meter) practice at Sweetwater Creek State Park  
Sun Mar 10 - HF (80 meter) practice at Sweetwater Creek State Park

Friday April 19 - VHF and HF practice at FDR State Park  
Saturday April 20 - US VHF ARDF Championships at FDR State Park  
Sunday April 21 - US HF ARDF Championships at FDR State Park

Please visit the web site at:  
<http://www.mindspring.com/~sam.smith/gaoc/>  
and click on the Radio-O champs link.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!

Sam Smith N4MAP

FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH

11:30



Go south on Roswell Rd, 0.2 mile turn right. 5 Seasons Restaurant drive way is the first driveway past 1 Stop light. First stop light is Lake Placid Dr. After turning right go till dead end. Turn right and you are there.

**ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 720398 Atlanta, GA 30358**

New[ ] Renewal[ ] Treasurer Use: Date Paid: Amount: Cash[ ] or Check#  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Family Names (Included in membership) List Here:

Type of Application [ ] Voting \$22 [ ] Student \$8 [ ] Family \$2(non-voting)

Please include my renewal [ ] new [ ] membership in ARRL when processing this  
ARRL Dues are as follows for one year: \$39 Regular, \$5 Blind , and \$34 Over 65 yrs. Add \$5 for additional family.  
NOTE: The ARC receives a bonus rebate when members join or renew through the club.  
ARRL Dues include subscription to QST Magazine (Except Family/Blind memberships)

DUES PAID: ARC \$\_\_\_\_\_ + FAMILY \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_

ARRL \$\_\_\_\_\_ + FAMILY \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to Atlanta Radio Club SUMMARY \$\_\_\_\_\_

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# 74th Atlanta Hamfest

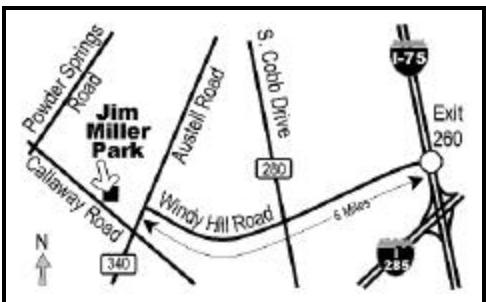


Gates Open:  
8:30AM – 3:30PM  
Admission: \$5  
(18 & Under Free)  
Talk-in: 146.820(-)

Sponsored by: The Atlanta Radio Club, W4DOC, & The American Radio Relay League

## SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2002

Jim R. Miller Park – Cobb Co. 2245 Callaway Rd. Marietta, Georgia



- ? DEALERS ? FLEA MARKET ? TAILGATING
- ? PRIZES ? FCC EXAMS ? FOOD ? DISPLAYS
- ? EXHIBITS ? FORUMS ? R/V & CAMPING

### SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE...

*In the spirit of supporting Amateur Radio, The Atlanta Radio Club, W4DOC, is pleased to offer a scholarship to a deserving young Ham. See web site for more details and an application.*

Visit our Web Site: [www.atlantahamfest.com](http://www.atlantahamfest.com)

For More Information, Contact:

John Talipsky, KA4VQH (770) 995-6446 or Email: johnka4vqh@aol.com

ATLANTA, GA 30358  
PO BOX 720398  
ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC



## **MEETING NOTICE MARCH 7, 2002**

The Atlanta Red Cross Atlanat Office – 1955 Monroe Drive

From the North: Take I-85 South. Get off at Exit 86 (Peachtree St.- Buford Hwy.), then take first exit (Armour Dr. - Monroe Dr.). Turn left at the light and go under the bridge, then right on Monroe Dr.

From the South: Take I-85 North. Get off at Exit 86 (Buford Hwy.), then get off at Exit 27 (Monroe Dr.). Turn right at the light.

After Getting on Monroe Dr.: Go a little over a tenth of a mile. Turn left in the driveway with the American Red Cross Chapter Administration sign. Offices are on the top of the hill.

### **A LITTLE HUMOR...**

Three men are sitting naked in the sauna. Suddenly there is a beeping sound.

The first man presses his forearm and the beeping stops. The others look at him questioningly. "That's my pager," he says. "I have a microchip under the skin of my arm."

A few minutes later a phone rings. The second man lifts his palm to his

ear. When he finishes he explains, "That's my mobile phone. I have a microchip in my hand."

The third man, feeling decidedly low-tech, steps out of the sauna. In a few minutes he returns with a piece of toilet paper extending from his rear, The others raise their eyebrows. "I'm getting a Fax," he explains.